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From: Kling, David
Sent: Sat 9/26/2015 11:28:09 AM
Subject: ACTION? FEMA Meeting with Navajo Nation President on Thursday (9/24)

All --

FEMA's Nicole Mlade provided late yesterday (Fri., 9/25) the summary below of FEMA's meeting Thursday afternoon (9/24) with Navajo Nation President Begaye on the Gold King Mine (CO) release.

The summary lists the tribe's needs as stated at the meeting, summarizes FEMA's representation of EPA's response and capabilities, and indicates Navajo intent to request a Presidential declaration and its sustained interest in a FDRC. It appears FEMA's regional director will be in touch with EPA Region 9 as follow-up.

> Has the EPA already provided a "heads up" to the White House, given Navajo intent to approach and pursue? If not, the Administrator's 9/13 note to President Begaye provides a nice summary of our offers.

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From: Mlade, Nicole <nicole.mlade@fema.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 8:53 PM
To: Kling, David
Cc: Rupp, Mark; Booth, Milo; Booth, Milo
Subject: NN Meeting Readout

Dave,

Thank you again for pulling together the useful pre-brief on Thursday. As you know, we met subsequently with Navajo Nation President Begaye and his D.C.-based staff, Jackson and Perry.

President Begaye provided his perspective on the impact of the spill and challenges the tribe faces, particularly around feed and water for livestock. He said the tribe needs an FDRC to help meet needs including:

- Reimbursement for farmers
- Testing wells
- Water treatment plants
- Water tanks
- Communications (convince people that crops are still ok for purchase)
- Refilling tanks
- Hay
- Removing sediment
- Water troughs
- Mental health support

Beth Zimmerman and Bob Fenton explained that EPA has the authorities and funding. They noted that EPA has a presence on the ground, system for reimbursement, and long-term plan for monitoring, and can assist with risk communications. They explained that FEMA cannot move beyond other agencies' authorities or duplicate benefits.

Our Navajo colleagues challenged us on some of those assertions and for further explanation of FEMA's authorities (in Stafford and non-Stafford scenarios). They indicated that the tribe will submit a request for a declaration and remains interested in an FDRC.

Note that they mentioned a White House meeting this week and a letter to the President. I've reached out to Raina Thiele in White House Intergovernmental Affairs to learn more.

Bob Fenton indicated that he would follow up immediately with EPA in the region to coordinate and assess shortfalls.

Please feel free to call me if you'd like more information. Thank you,

Nicole

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